

SABIT STANDARDS IN MEDICAL DEVICES PROGRAM

February 22, 2003 - March 22, 2003

The SABIT Standards Program, managed jointly by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), provides intensive training opportunities for standards and conformity assessment experts from Eurasia. The program offers in-depth training on effective and efficient practices of product and equipment standards and certification used in the United States as well as inspires confidence in U.S. products and services.

Scope and Mission of the Program

The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Standards in Medical Devices Program is designed to provide 17 mid-to-senior medical device specialists from Eurasia one month of intensive exposure to U.S. practices in standards development, product certification, and laboratory accreditation, as well as offer site visits and direct interaction with U.S. medical equipment companies, testing labs, hospitals, and clinics.

The 17 delegates, screened and selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and NIST represent both national and regional standards agencies and testing laboratories as well as private medical equipment companies from eight countries in Eurasia. The delegates are valuable contacts for U.S. companies looking to do business in Eurasia and many represent gatekeeper agencies, key to getting new products into the evolving markets of the region.

Benefits of Participation

Participation in SABIT offers a unique opportunity for both U.S. companies and Eurasian delegates. These visits offer solid, practical experience for the Eurasian standards experts and give U.S. businesses an unparalleled opportunity to establish firsthand contacts key to working in the markets of Eurasia.

For companies that are not currently active in the region, participation in the program will enable them to learn about potential opportunities in Eurasia and establish valuable industry and government contacts.

SABIT is currently seeking U.S. hosts in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Washington, DC area to provide training for half- and full-day sessions in topics including standards development, product testing, quality control, clinical trials, good manufacturing practices, and biomedical technology.

Session Structure

This program will begin with a two-week session at NIST in the Washington, D.C. area, with government and industry association presentations and site visits, in addition to focused business roundtables and panel discussions (February 22 - March 8). The group will then travel to Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities for two weeks of targeted site visits to U.S. companies, laboratories, and other host organizations (March 9 - March 20).

Additional Networking Opportunities

In addition to the midwestern site visits, a roundtable and one-on-one meetings are planned in the Washington-Baltimore area during the final week of the program. These events will provide opportunities to learn about medical equipment certification and market issues in Eurasia directly from the delegates as well offer a unique chance to learn more about the region. It will also provide a forum for U.S. company representatives to network with the delegates to discuss their companies and services.

Cost of Participation

SABIT will cover the majority of program costs for all delegates, including round-trip airfare to the United States, all domestic U.S. transportation, housing, insurance, per diem for meals and incidentals, and interpreters to travel with the group. In turn, U.S. host organizations are asked to cover all costs of the training they provide.

For More Information

To learn about this session and the associated networking events, please contact SABIT Standards Program Coordinator Melissa Jordan. Also be sure to log onto our newly designed website to learn more about this SABIT Standards session and the SABIT Program!

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